

# North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

#### **ECONOMIC TRENDS**

#### PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Through surveys, research and analysis, the Idaho Department of Labor has identified specific future job opportunities including occupations that are the fastest growing, have high employment and are in high demand. These are also the occupations that are short on qualified applicants, according to employers, and include jobs emerging from new business in the region. A short list of these projected occupational opportunities is listed in North Central Idaho Table 2 on page 14. They are listed alphabetically, not according to a ranking order. A broader list of 538 occupations is available on the Idaho Labor LMI Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

# AREA DEVELOPMENTS

#### **IDAHO & CLEARWATER COUNTIES**

- Firefighting crews battled 18 forest fires in Idaho and Clearwater counties in July. Fires burned in steep, difficult terrain with limited access. Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter issued an emergency disaster declaration for Idaho County due to the risk to life and property from uncontrolled fires. The declaration will remain in place through August, authorizing the use of state government resources to assist local efforts. One of the largest fires, the Poe Cabin Fire had burned more than 54,000 acres by the end of July and was still only 60 percent contained. According to the Forest Service, extreme temperatures, winds, dry forests and fuels contributed to erratic fire behavior and rapid expansion. Total fire suppression costs for just the Poe Cabin Fire in July were \$5.4 million with nearly 700 firefighters battling the blaze at month's end.
- Residents in Grangeville and surrounding areas will soon get in-

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

				% Change From	
	Jun 2007*	May 2007	Jun 2006	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	29,800	30,170	29,200	-1.2	2.1
Unemployment	1,000	980	1,260	2.0	-20.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.2	4.3		
Total Employment	28,800	29,190	27,940	-1.3	3.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	29,730	30,080	29,060	-1.2	2.3
Unemployment	920	780	1,170	17.9	-21.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	2.6	4.0		
Total Employment	28,810	29,300	27,890	-1.7	3.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	28,140	27,770	27,730	1.3	1.5
Goods-Producing Industries	4,860	4,720	4,980	3.0	-2.4
Natural Resources & Mining	210	170	220	23.5	-4.5
Construction	1,580	1,490	1,610	6.0	-1.9
Manufacturing	3,070	3,060	3,150	0.3	-2.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	560	540	570	3.7	-1.8
Paper Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,130	0.0	-2.7
Other Manufacturing	1,410	1,420	1,450	-0.7	-2.8
Service-Providing Industries	23,280	23,050	22,750	1.0	2.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,450	5,400	5,340	0.9	2.1
Wholesale Trade	670	680	620	-1.5	8.1
Retail Trade	3,540	3,500	3,540	1.1	0.0
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,150	1,130	1,090	1.8	5.5
Information	420	420	410	0.0	2.4
Financial Activities	2,040	2,020	2,000	1.0	2.0
Professional & Business Services	1,630	1,610	1,610	1.2	1.2
Education & Health Services	4,510	4,530	4,400	-0.4	2.5
Leisure & Hospitality	2,570	2,560	2,620	0.4	-1.9
Other Services	1,160	1,160	1,140	0.0	1.8
Government Education	2,490	2,600	2,430	-4.2	2.5
Government Administration	2,250	2,000	2,090	12.5	7.7
Government Tribes	760	750	710	1.3	7.0

<sup>\*</sup>Preliminary Estimate

creased cell phone coverage thanks in part to a new tower under construction by Inland Cellular." We felt like it was time to put a new tower on line," said Inland Cellular manager Chip Damato. "We need the tower to have better coverage and to add capacity to our existing network." Along with adding capacity, the new tower along the Grangeville truck route is set up with microwaves, which will allow Grangeville residents to have better broadband services. The new air cards that are used with laptops for Internet service will have better

<sup>\*\*</sup>Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

strength and better connectivity once the new tower is up and running. Communications Maintenance and Installation Corp. of Phoenix, Ariz., is installing the microwave dishes and the tower. The company travels the world to do these types of tower installations and has worked with Inland Cellular many times as it has continued to grow.

# LATAH COUNTY

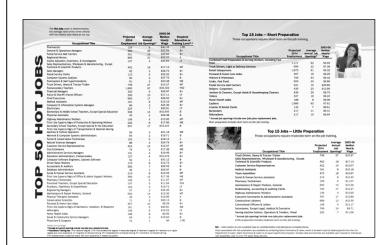
Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories in Pullman, Wash., is providing educational opportunities for engineers, electrical technicians and select college students from all over the world. From universities such as California Polytechnic State University and Virginia Tech, students and engineers come to the company to learn "Protection 401 - Protecting Power Systems for Engineers." Courses began in April and continue almost every week through the first week of October, bringing about 260 students to the area during that time span. The curriculum covers protection of power systems, mainly those used in electrical utilities and industrial power plants. The courses range in price from \$585 for a two-day course on particular Schweitzer products to \$2,250 for the four-day core course. Schweitzer is one of the fastest growing companies in the area and produces computer microprocessor bases with electromechanical contacts and switches called relays. The circuit boards and relays produced at Schweitzer's manufacturing plant in Pullman are made to handle very high voltage and allow for uninterrupted electrical service to large municipal and rural areas. While in town, engineers stay at the Holiday Inn and take a Wheatland Express shuttle to the corporate campus. The company caters their lunches from local restaurants such as Basilio's, Swilly's and The Emerald among others. One evening,

the company's staff took 23 engineers to Tucci's, an Italian restaurant in Moscow. Schweitzer tries to schedule its courses around important events at Washington State University and the University of Idaho such as graduation, parent's weekends and sporting events so as not to compete for lodging and restaurants.

# **NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES**

- A new veterans clinic will open in Lewiston sometime this year, offering doctor, dental, vision and laboratory services. There will not be a pharmacy on site, but a 24-hour mail-order service is planned. The Veterans Administration likely will contract with a Lewiston pharmacy for emergency medications. About 1,660 veterans from Asotin County in Washington and Nez Perce, Lewis, and Clearwater counties in Idaho are expected to benefit from the new clinic.
- A growing commercial winery in Lewiston is eyeing an expansion at the Port of Lewiston. Clearwater Canyon Cellars is considering moving to a 1,500square-foot space north of the river. The winery does not plan to open a tasting room immediately but might in the future, Port of Lewiston Manager David Doeringsfeld said. "It allows them to increase the amount of production they have." Jaynie Bentz, assistant port manager, said she expects the expansion of the winery will be gradual. "It kind of grows from the garage level to the next level....that takes years. They're on baby step number two."

Doug Tweedy, Regional Economist 1158 Idaho St., Lewiston, ID 83501 (208) 799-5000 ext. 3511 E-mail: doug.tweedy@labor.idaho.gov



North central Idaho's Hot Jobs are the jobs that on average rank high in three major criteria — the abundance of jobs in the economy, jobs that are growing the fastest and jobs with the highest pay.

This publication, available at <a href="mi.idaho.gov"><u>Imi.idaho.gov</u></a>, lists the disaggregated the <a href="Hot Jobs">Hot Jobs</a> by education and training level.

From the Web site, choose Area LMI from the top menu. Then choose the region of interest from the statewide map.

Please see page 13 for a complete listing of the region's top 42 hot jobs.

# North Central Idaho News - Hot Jobs Table

North Central Idaho Table 2: Projected Employment Opportunities						
Industry	Avg. Hourly Wage	Required Education				
NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO 42 HOT JOBS						
Accountants and Auditors	\$20.45	Bachelor's degree				
Carpenters	\$15.73	Long-term on-the-job training				
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	\$24.65	Long-term on-the-job training				
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	\$6.92	Short-term on-the-job training				
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$25.39	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience				
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	\$31.12	Bachelor's degree				
Cooks, Restaurant	\$8.52	Long-term on-the-job training				
Correctional Officers and Jailers	\$13.17	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Cost Estimators	\$17.38	Work experience in a related occupation				
Customer Service Representatives	\$12.07	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Driver/Sales Workers	\$12.73	Short-term on-the-job training				
Electricians	\$20.91	Long-term on-the-job training				
Engineers	\$35.36	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience				
Financial Managers	\$20.97	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience				
Fire Fighters	\$11.54	Long-term on-the-job training				
Forest Workers	\$18.15	Associate degree				
Gaming Dealers	*	Postsecondary vocational award				
Highway Maintenance Workers	\$15.95	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	\$8.32	Short-term on-the-job training				
Machinists	\$16.22	Long-term on-the-job training				
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$15.36	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Medical Assistants	\$15.16	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Millwrights	\$16.23	Long-term on-the-job training				
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$19.71	Bachelor's degree				
Personal and Home Care Aides	\$8.29	Short-term on-the-job training				
Pharmacists	\$40.34	First professional degree				
Physical Therapist Assistants	\$19.06	Associate degree				
Physician Assistants	\$29.38	Bachelor's degree				
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$19.72	Long-term on-the-job training				
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$17.11	Long-term on-the-job training				
Postal Service Clerks	\$22.03	Short-term on-the-job training				
Registered Nurses	\$22.27	Associate degree				
Retail Salespersons	\$9.32	Short-term on-the-job training				
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	\$17.13	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood	\$11.66	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Social and Human Service Assistants	\$10.45	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Teachers	\$48,169	Doctoral degree				
Team Assemblers	\$10.67	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$15.27	Moderate-term on-the-job training				
Waiters and Waitresses	\$6.42	Short-term on-the-job training				
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$13.67	Long-term on-the-job training				